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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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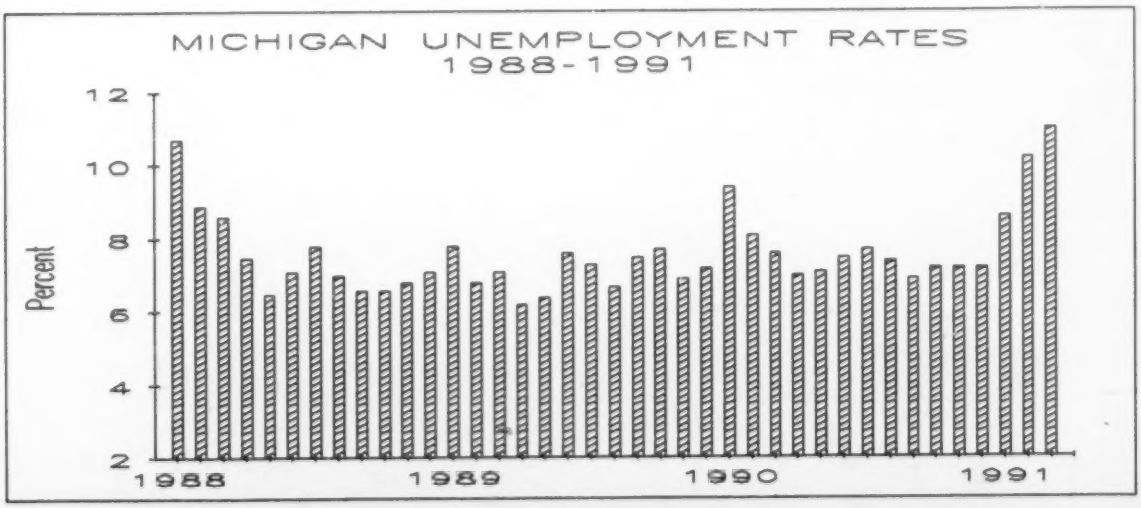
JOB SERVICE
Michigan Employment Security Commission

JOBLESS RATE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Michigan's unemployment rate increased by eight-tenths of a percentage points as the jobless rate rose from 10.2 percent in February to 11.0 percent in March. The rate increase represents 43,000 additional individuals out of work, as total local residents seeking employment jumped to 508,000. The climb in joblessness was primarily a result of decline in manufacturing employment throughout the state. Total employment in March registered an increase as the number of employed area residents climbed by 39,000 to reach 4,113,000. Additionally, the civilian labor force advanced to 4,621,000, a gain of 82,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has dropped by 35,000, while the size of the labor force has expanded by 132,000. In March 1990, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 340,000, representing an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan dropped as industry jobs fell to 3,816,000 in March. Employment opportunities declined by approximately 16,000 as losses were centered in both the goods producing and service producing sectors of the economy. Total employment in the goods producing industries contracted by 14,000 primarily as a result of declines in the transportation equipment industry. Service producing employment dipped by 2,000 to 2,829,000 in March, as the retail trade industry continues to decline following the holidays peak. Public sector positions remained unchanged. Since March 1990, industry employment in Michigan has decreased by 112,000 positions or 2.9 percent. Approximately 96,000 goods producing jobs have been lost throughout the year, while service producing employment declined by 16,000.



Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	MAR 1991	FEB 1991	JAN 1991	MAR 1990
PLACE OF RESIDENCE *				
Civilian Labor Force	4621	4539	4512	4489
Employment	4113	4074	4123	4148
Unemployment	508	465	389	340
Rate	11.0	10.2	8.6	7.6
PLACE OF WORK *				
Wage and Salary Employment	3816	3832	3851	3928
Goods Producing Industries	987	1001	1024	1083
Construction	110	112	119	125
Manufacturing	867	880	895	949
Durable Goods	647	658	671	717
Lumber and Wood Products	14	14	14	15
Furniture and Fixtures	35	35	36	35
Stone, Clay and Glass	15	15	16	17
Primary Metals	39	38	40	43
Fabricated Metals	106	105	114	121
Industrial Machinery	121	123	124	127
Electrical Machinery	29	30	31	33
Transportation Equipment	263	271	271	302
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	248	255	256	285
Nondurable Goods	221	222	224	231
Food and Kindred Products	41	43	43	42
Textiles and Apparel	18	17	17	21
Paper and Allied Products	21	21	21	21
Printing and Publishing	43	44	44	45
Chemicals and Allied Products	45	45	45	44
Rubber and Misc. Plastics	47	47	49	52
Service Producing Industries	2829	2831	2827	2845
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	150	151	151	155
Wholesale Trade	193	194	195	198
Durable Goods	122	123	124	128
Nondurable Goods	71	71	71	71
Retail Trade	715	716	736	723
General Merchandise Stores	107	111	121	115
Food Stores	103	105	106	103
Auto. Dealers and Serv. Stns.	76	76	77	78
Apparel and Access. Stores	39	38	40	39
Eating and Drinking Places	251	249	251	247
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	191	191	191	190
Services	933	932	929	930
Hotels and Lodging Places	33	33	34	34
Personal Services	43	43	41	42
Business Services	167	169	171	173
Health Services	310	309	308	303
Social Services	64	64	63	61
Government	647	647	626	650
Federal	58	58	59	61
State	171	175	168	174
Local	419	415	399	416
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1989 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the cooperative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program - March 1989 Benchmark.

Suppressed data included in: X=Totals, A=Other Durable Goods, B=Other Nondurable Goods.

Due to the suppression of data, the industry estimates do not sum to the total wage and salary estimate.

*** DATA IS IN THOUSANDS**

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits increased for the seventh consecutive month in March. The regular benefits claims load averaged 229,809 per week during the month, approximately 9,300 more than the February total. The 4.2 percent increase was primarily due to production related cutbacks in the manufacturing industries. In March 1990, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 153,392.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
March 02, 1991	264,900	43,600	221,300	112,600	23,700	88,900
March 09, 1991	251,400	35,300	216,100	97,000	14,800	82,200
March 16, 1991	263,600	39,400	224,200	105,000	17,700	87,300
March 23, 1991	255,500	34,900	220,600	102,100	17,000	85,100
March 30, 1991	218,400	20,600	197,800	82,500	9,200	73,300

DETROIT AREA COST OF LIVING MOVES UPWARD

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area increased from 131.2 in December to 132.2 in February. The increase in Detroit area prices was primarily due to higher costs for medical care and housing. Prices in the area climbed by 4.8 percent since February 1990, when the consumer price index stood at 126.1. At the national level, the cost of living in March of 1991, advanced by two-tenths of a percent, to reach 135.0. The higher national prices were also due to additional costs for apparel and upkeep and medical care. Between March 1990 and March 1991, national consumer prices increased by 4.9 percent. One year ago, the national index registered 128.7. Note: Beginning in January 1987, the Consumer Price Indexes were shifted to a new reference base year. All indexes expressed on a 1967=100, were rebased to 1982-1984=100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries increased to 40.2 hours in March. The increase occurred primarily as a result of additional hours worked by individuals in the auto related industries. During the month average hourly earnings increased by 6 cents to $14.12, while average weekly earnings increased by $5.22 to total $567.62. In March 1990, earnings averaged $13.74 an hour or $577.08 per week for a 42.0 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Hourly Earnings a/		
	Mar 1991	Feb 1991	Mar 1990	Mar 1991	Feb 1991	Mar 1990	Mar 1991	Feb 1991	Mar 1990
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	$567.62	$562.40	$577.08	40.2	40.0	42.0	$14.12	$14.06	$13.74
DURABLE GOODS	598.58	592.51	607.50	40.2	39.9	42.1	14.89	14.85	14.43
Primary Metal Products	591.62	588.24	629.52	39.6	39.4	43.0	14.94	14.93	14.64
Fabricated Metal Products	553.96	565.61	570.36	39.4	40.2	42.0	14.06	14.07	13.58
Industrial Machinery	593.53	589.05	585.03	42.7	42.5	43.4	13.90	13.86	13.48
Electrical Machinery	462.48	441.48	463.61	39.8	39.0	41.1	11.62	11.32	11.28
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	743.39	726.40	713.47	39.5	38.7	40.7	18.82	18.77	17.53
NONDURABLE GOODS	476.75	467.97	477.98	40.3	40.1	41.6	11.83	11.67	11.49
Construction	577.81	570.02	564.12	35.8	35.1	36.0	16.14	16.24	15.67
Department Stores	180.31	171.60	186.05	24.7	23.8	27.2	7.30	7.21	6.84

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
MARCH 1991 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	124,443,000	115,639,000	8,804,000	7.1
Michigan	4,621,000	4,113,000	503,000	11.0
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	169,300	158,400	10,900	6.4
Battle Creek MSA	65,900	59,300	6,600	9.9
Benton Harbor MSA	78,500	70,500	8,000	10.1
Detroit MSA	2,149,000	1,919,000	230,000	10.7
Flint MSA	193,400	160,100	33,300	17.2
Grand Rapids MSA	381,400	350,100	31,300	8.2
Jackson MSA	65,400	58,400	6,900	10.6
Kalamazoo MSA	121,200	113,300	7,900	6.5
Lansing MSA	244,100	226,500	17,600	7.2
Muskegon MSA	69,600	60,000	9,600	13.7
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	190,400	168,500	21,900	11.5
Upper Peninsula LMA	140,800	122,300	18,500	13.1
Major Counties (18,000+)				
Allegan	60,250	55,550	4,700	7.8
Barry	25,000	22,400	2,575	10.4
Bay	55,675	48,300	7,375	13.3
Cass	23,450	20,700	2,750	11.8
Clinton	31,750	28,925	2,800	8.9
Eaton	54,250	50,275	3,975	7.3
Grand Traverse	44,400	39,400	5,000	11.3
Gratiot	20,500	18,025	2,475	12.0
Hillsdale	20,750	17,825	2,925	14.1
Ingham	158,075	147,300	10,775	6.8
Ionia	20,525	17,025	3,500	17.1
Isabella	32,400	30,100	2,300	7.1
Kent	277,875	255,150	22,750	8.2
Lapeer	36,250	29,725	6,525	18.0
Lenawee	45,150	38,475	6,675	14.8
Livingston	55,500	50,375	5,125	9.2
Macomb	373,675	335,225	38,450	10.3
Marquette	30,075	26,950	3,125	10.4
Midland	36,400	33,325	3,075	8.4
Monroe	66,625	57,075	9,550	14.3
Montcalm	25,875	21,750	4,150	16.0
Oakland	574,975	525,000	49,975	8.7
Ottawa	103,475	94,925	8,550	8.3
Saginaw	98,325	86,850	11,475	11.7
St. Clair	68,925	58,700	10,250	14.9
St. Joseph	27,525	23,550	4,000	14.5
Sanilac	20,550	16,850	3,725	18.1
Shiawassee	36,250	30,800	5,425	15.0
Tuscola	25,900	21,150	4,750	18.3
Van Buren	33,725	29,200	4,525	13.4
Wayne	973,250	862,975	110,275	11.3

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